

Ex. # 1158

Extract from interrogation of
General Hidiki TOJO
of 12 March 1946

/pp. 1, 4, 6-8, 9-10/

"Q You were chosen Premier, were you not, chiefly because it was felt that you could control the actions of the Army?

"A Yes, from the standpoint of military administration."

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/p. 4/

"Q Yesterday, you explained that the policy, after the 6 September 1941 Imperial Conference, was, on the one hand, to negotiate for peace, and on the other, to prepare for war. Did you continue that policy?

"A Yes. I undertook the work as Premier.

"Q What matters were discussed and what policies decided on at the Imperial Conference of 5 November 1941?

"A There wasn't any Imperial Conference on the 5th of November."

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/pp. 6-8/

"Q When and why was a meeting of ex-premiers held prior to the last Imperial Conference of 1 December 1941?

"A You mean the Senior Statesmen?

"Q Yes.

"A That was convened by the Emperor.

"Q When?

"A It was either on the 1st or the 31st.

"Q What was the purpose of calling that meeting?

"A The Emperor was very anxious about the question of war with America and he convened them in order to hear each man's opinion.

"Q Who presided at that meeting?

"A Let's see - those were WAKATSUKI, OKADA, Senjuro HAYASHI, YONAI, Nobuyuki ABE, KONOYE, HIRANUMA.

"Q You still have not answered who presided.

"A I think perhaps WAKATSUKI presided. I don't really know.

"Q Did you make any statements at that meeting?

"A Of course I was there too, as the Premier at that time. Yes, I did. The Emperor was there and heard each man's opinion in turn. I was there and from time to time spoke, giving the government's point of view.

"Q What did you state as the government's point of view?

"A I explained various things, but I don't remember the details now. I explained the inevitableness of war.

"Q Did the Emperor make any statement at all at that meeting?

"A No, he only listened. This was not a conference. It was only that the Emperor wished to hear the opinion of each man.

"Q Did you express your opinion before any of the others expressed theirs?

"A It was this way: The Army, Navy and Foreign Ministers, President of the Cabinet Planning Board, and I, as Premier, met with the Senior Statesmen in the morning and explained the situation to them. Then after a Court dinner with the Emperor, the former Premiers and I met with the Emperor who heard each man's opinion in turn. The other cabinet members were not present at that time, only I from the government. There was one other former Premier present - HIROTA.

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/pp. 9-10/

"Q Were there any differences between TOGO and the others relative to this? /Referring to the delivery of the final note to the United States./

"A No, there were not. They were the same - to deliver it before the attack.

"Q Was any decision arrived at in the Liaison Conference as to how long it was to be delivered before the attack?

"A I have explained this before. The decision as to the time was not made at the Liaison Conference. The Supreme Command and the Foreign Minister were to meet together and decide the time which would comply with the diplomatic and also the strategic requirements.

"Q Was this delegation of authority decided upon at this same final Liaison Conference?

"A Yes.

"Q Do you know that such meeting or meetings were held pursuant to this delegation of authority?

"A No, I don't know.

"Q Did you learn what decision had been arrived at in regard to timing by these men to whom the authority had been delegated?

"A I did not learn precisely the time set, but it was decided that the Chiefs of Staff and the Foreign Minister would settle that so as to comply with both the diplomatic and military requirements. It was settled at the Liaison Conference that the delivery of the final note would precede the attack. /Last sentence of this answer read back to the witness who agreed as to its correctness./

"Q You stated recently during an interrogation that Japan declared war on the United States and Great Britain. On what do you base that statement?

"A It is based on the Imperial Rescript.

"Q That Imperial Rescript was announced to the Japanese people and to the world some eleven or twelve hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Do you deny this?

"A It was afterwards, all right.

"Q How many hours afterwards do you admit that it was?

"A It was announced at about 11 or 11:30 on the morning of the 8th in Japan.

"Q And the Pearl Harbor attack was at 3:00 A.M., Japan time?

"A Yes, about that. I am not absolutely sure of the time, but I think it was about like that."

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東條英機ニ對スル訊問ヨリノ抜萃

一九四六年三月十二日

第一、四、六、八、九、十頁

「第一頁」

問、貴方へ主トシテ貴方が自軍ノ行動ヲ統制スルコ
トガ出来ルト思ヘレタ爲メニ總理大臣ニ委任セ
ラレタノデヘアリマセンカ、

答、サウデス軍度上。

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「第四頁」

問、昨日貴方へ昭和十六年九月六日ノ御前會議以後
ノ政策ハ一方ニ於テ平和ノ爲ノ交渉ヲナシ他方
ニ於テ敗戦ノ準備ヲナスモノデアツタト説明シ
マシタ。貴方ハソノ政策ヲ讀ケマシタカ、

答、サウデス。私ハ總理大臣トシテソノ仕事ヲ引受
ケマシタ。

問、昭和十六年十一月五日ノ御前會議ニ於テ如何ナ
ル事情が露顯セラレ如何ナル政策ガ決定セラレ
マシタカ、

答、十一月五日ニハ御前會議ヘアリマセンデシタ。

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「第六—八頁」

問、昭和十六年十二月一日ノ最終御前會議ノ以前、
前總理大臣等ノ會合ガアツタノハ、何時又如何
ナル理由カラデシタカ。

答、重臣ノコトデスカ、

問、サウデス、

答、ソレハ天皇陛下ニ依リ召集セラレマシタ。

問、何時デスカ、

答、ソレハ一日カ三十一日カノ何レカデシタ。

問、ソノ會合ガナサレタ目的ハ何デシタカ、

答、陛下ハ米國トノ戰爭ノ問題ニ付甚ク震様ヲ惱マ
セラレテ居ラレマシタ。ソコデ各人ノ意見ヲ聽
セラルル爲重臣達ヲ集メラレタノデアリマシタ。

問、ソノ會合デハ誰ガ主宰シマシタカ、

答、エート、居ツタノハ若槻、岡田、林銑十郎、米
内、阿部信行、近衛、平沼、デシタ。

問、マダ誰ガ主宰シタカ答ヘテイナイデスネ、

答、多分若槻ガ主宰シタト思ヒマス。確實ナトコロ
ハ分リマセン。

問、實方ハソノ會議ニ於イテ何カ申通ベマシタカ、

答、勿論私モソコニ當時ノ總理大臣トシテ居リマシ
タ。サウデス、私ハ發言シマシタ。陛下ガ臨御
セラレ頃々ニ各人ノ意見ヲ聽取セラレマシタ。

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私ハ出席シ時々發言シ政府ノ見解ヲ申通クマシ
タ。

問、貴方ハ政府ノ見解トシテ如何ナルコトヲ通ベマ
シタカ、

答、種々ナコトラ説明シマシタ、然シ今細カイコト
ハ覺エテ居リマセン。私ハ戦争ノ避クベカラザ
ルコトラ説明シマシタ。

問、天皇ハソノ會合デ何カ少シデモ發言シマシタカ、

答、イヤ、陛下ハ唯確イテ居ラレタ丈デシタ。之ハ
偽議會デハアリマセンデシタ。唯陛下ガ各人ノ
意見ヲ聽取シ度イト思召シタノデシタ。

問、貴方ハ他ノ者達が彼等ノ意見ヲ通ベル前ニ自分
ノ意見ヲ通ベマシタカ、

答、ソレハコソ云フ具合デシタ、陸、海軍及外務ノ
各大臣、企畫院總裁及總理大臣トシテノ私が午
前中ニ重臣達ト會ヒ彼等ニ情勢ヲ説明シマシタ。
ソレカラ御陪食ノ後前總理大臣達及私が陛下ノ
御前デ會合シ陛下ハ暇々ニ各人ノ意見ヲ御聽取
ニナリマシタ。他ノ閣員ハソノ時ニハ出席セズ
政府カラハ私文ガ出席シテ居リマシタ。モウ一
人他ニ前總理大臣ガ出席シテ居リマシタ。廣田
デス。

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「第九十頁」

問、コノ點ニ關シ／合衆國ニ對シ最後通牒ヲ手交スルコトニ關シ／東郷トソノ他ノ者達ノ間ニ意見ノ相異ガアリマシタカ、

答、イ、エ、アリマセンデシタ。皆一致シテキマシタ。ソレヲ攻撃前ニ手交スルコトニデス。

問、攻撃前何ノ位ノ時間ニ於イテソレガ手交サレルベキカニ就イテ連絡會議デ何等カノ決定ニ到達シマシタカ、

答、ソノコトハ前ニ説明致シマシタ。ソノ時間ニ關シテノ決定ハソノ連絡會議ニ於イテ爲サレナカツタノデス。統帥部ト外務大臣ガ一緒ニ會合シテ外交上及作戰上ノ各要求ニ應ズルヤウナ時間ヲ決定スル筈デアリマシタ。

問、ソノ權限ノ委任ハ當該最終ノ連絡會議ニ於テ決定セラレタノデスカ、

答、サウデス。

問、ソノ様ナ會合ガ一度或ハ數度右權限ノ委任ニ從ツテ開カレタコトヲ貴方ハ知ツテ居マスカ、

答、イヤ、知りマセン。

問、ソノ權限ヲ委ネラレタ者達ニ依ツテ時間ニ關シ何等カノ結論ニ達シタカ貴方ハ聞キマシタカ、

答、私ハ定メラレタ時間ヲ正確ニハ聞キマセンデシ

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タ。然シ南總長及外務大臣ハ外交上及作戰上ノ
兩方ノ要求ニ應ズル様之ヲ決定スルトイフコト
ガ決メラレマシタ。最後通牒ガ成立ニ先立テ手
交セラレルトイフコトハソノ通牒會議ニ於テ決
定セラレタノデスノコト迄ノ最後ノ部分ハ證人
ニ戻返サレ、證人ハソノ相違ナキコトヲ認メタ
リ。

問、貴方ハコノ前談中ニ日本ハ合衆國及英國ニ對
シ宣戰ヲ布告シタト述ベマシタネ。ソノ宣戰ハ
何ニ基イテナサレマシタカ。

答、ソレハ圖書ニ基イテナサレマシタ。

問、ソノ圖書ハ長洲灣攻撃ガ行ハレテカラ約十一、
二時間後ニ日本國民及世界ニ南ツテ發セラレタ
ノデス。ソレヲ否定シマスカ。

答、後デ出タノデス。間違ヒアリマセン。

問、圖書ノ公布ハ何時由後デシタカ。

答、ソレハ日本デ八日ノ午前十一時カ十一時半頃發
セラレマシタ。

問、ソシテ長洲灣攻撃ハ日本時間ニシテ午前三時デ
シタカ。

答、サウデス、ソノ頃デス。時間ノ事ハハツキリシ
マセンガソノ通りデアツタト思ヒマス。

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